



The National Intelligence Daily

Published by the Director of Central Intelligence for Named Principals Only

TOP SECRET
NOFORN/NOCON

Copy No. 189

TUESDAY JULY 12, 1977

NR

Chile: Plans for Return to Civilian Rule

Chilean President Pinochet has announced plans to return the country to civilian rule by 1985. His blueprint for a return to "democracy," the delivery to Washington of an advance draft of his speech of last December, and recent reports that he is considering restricting the power of the notorious National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), all suggest that Pinochet has finally

become convinced that draconian measures are no longer necessary in Chile and that it is time for a new chapter.

Pinochet's suggested schedule for a return to civilian rule culminates in limited popular elections in 1983. Those elections would choose two thirds of the delegates to a legislative assembly that would then appoint a new president. Prior

to this, the junta in 1980 will name the members of a single legislative chamber that will rule jointly with the armed forces for four or five years.

Pinochet warned that the entire plan depends on continued signs of "recuperation" from the Allende years. If the announced time frame is followed, Chile will be on a similar but slower schedule of the constitutional changes announced by the military governments of Bolivia and Peru.

The reasons for Pinochet's announcement are obscure, but he has been under considerable pressure to do something about Chile's human rights image. Complaints by members of the junta and the military services about the poor image and DINA's power have increased in recent months. Many senior officers have told Pinochet that subversion is under control, the state of siege should be lifted, and DINA's arrest power should be terminated.

The results of Supreme Court President Eyzaguirre's surprise visit last month to a DINA detention center may have been the last straw. Eyzaguirre reported his discovery of severely abused prisoners to Pinochet and informed the President that he was going to order the Supreme Court to investigate DINA's illegal activities.

Eyzaguirre sent copies of his report to (See Chile... Page 3)

15C

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 1999

85

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

TUESDAY JULY 12, 1977 3

NR

Chile...

From Page 1

the other junta members, navy Admiral Merino and air force General Leigh, who have long advocated a move toward civilian rule, and Carabineros (National Police) General Mendez. Eyraudire was assured by the navy and air force leaders that they oppose DINA's activities and had so informed the President.

Subsequently, Pinochet ordered DINA to prepare a study of how the organization could be converted to a strictly intelligence-collection agency. The reorganized DINA would have no detention powers and would work closely with the intelligence directorates of the armed forces and the carabineros. The President ordered the reorganization plan to be presented to him before the end of July.

Pinochet, undoubtedly reflecting his

aversion to the chaos of the Allende years, has been dragging his feet on the DINA issue. He probably believes that it is premature to curtail DINA or to return the country to civilian rule before 1985. Characteristically, he looked out during his speech against foreign intervention in Chilean affairs under the guise of defending human rights.

Pressure from his colleagues in recent months has made Pinochet's stance increasingly unworkable. The fact that political normalization will be supervised closely by the armed forces probably increased his willingness to make the election announcement. An added inducement, of course, is the announcement's expected beneficial effects on the government's popular support and its human rights image. Actually, however, very little in the present operation of the government will change.

150

TOP SECRET